

I would also like to thank Chairman GORDON, Subcommittee Chairman BAIRD, and the staff at the Science and Technology Committee for their assistance in drafting this amendment, and for their commitment to increasing participation of minorities in the science and technology fields.

Hispanic-serving Institutions serve the majority of the nearly two million Hispanic students enrolled in college today, and many of these institutions offer associate, undergraduate, and graduate programs and degrees in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics fields. The Hispanic-Serving Institutions Undergraduate Program created by this amendment will allow these colleges and universities to access the funding they need to enhance their educational programs.

In my district alone, about 10,000 students attend Hispanic-Serving Institutions offering degrees in these science fields. Students at institutions throughout Queens and the Bronx, including Lehman College, Bronx Community College, Hostos Community College, LaGuardia Community College, Vaughn College of Aeronautics and Technology, and the College of Mount Saint Vincent, like those all across the country, will benefit from increased access to funding to improve these degree programs.

This amendment corrects a long-standing inequality at the National Science Foundation. Unlike their counterparts of Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Tribal Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-serving Institutions have not benefited from a specific program to provide them with grants for research, curriculum, and infrastructure development.

Without access to targeted capacity-building grants, Hispanic-Serving Institutions have difficulty increasing the ranks of Hispanics in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics fields, where they have been historically underrepresented. Studies show that Hispanics earn less than 3 percent of doctorates in these areas, compared to more than 50 percent by non-Hispanic whites.

This amendment also goes to the heart of the Innovation Agenda spearheaded by Speaker PELOSI and the new Democratic Coalition in the House to increase our nation's competitiveness and create more math and science graduates.

To maintain our global competitiveness, we need to increase our pool of scientists, mathematicians, and engineers. We can do this by ensuring that Hispanics, the youngest and fastest-growing ethnic population group in the nation, are prepared with the knowledge and skills that will contribute to our nation's future economic strength, security and global leadership.

This grants program will educate and train a new generation of experts in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics areas. By engaging Hispanic-Serving Institutions in this process, we can reach out to and involve more of the Hispanic educational community.

The National Science Foundation, through its undergraduate and graduate programs, can assist Hispanic-Serving Institutions in developing programs to prepare current and future generations of Hispanics and other minority professionals in the sciences.

In the National Science Foundation Authorization Act of 2002, Congress authorized the Foundation to establish a Minority Serving In-

stitutions Undergraduate Program, which was envisioned as being parallel to the existing Historically Black Colleges and Universities Undergraduate Program and the Tribal Colleges Program, and would include Hispanic-Serving Institutions, Native Hawaiian institutions, Native Alaskan institutions, and all other institutions serving "a substantial number of minority students". Unfortunately, the National Science Foundation did not implement the provision.

This amendment explicitly establishes a Hispanic-Serving Institutions Undergraduate Program. The language would capture the components of the successful HBCU-Undergraduate Program, allowing Hispanic-Serving Institutions to achieve this same level of success. The result of the amendment is that now the National Science Foundation will be able to offer three similar programs for three different types of minority-serving institutions, allowing Hispanic Serving Institutions to respond to a proposal solicitation tailored for them alone.

I applaud the establishment of a Hispanic-Serving Institutions Undergraduate Program to achieve the goal of increased minority participation in the sciences, and I urge passage of this excellent amendment by Representatives MCNERNEY and GIFFORDS.

GENETIC INFORMATION NONDISCRIMINATION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Ms. DEGETTE. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 493, the "Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2007."

This bill will protect people from discrimination in securing health insurance or employment based on their genetic make-up. Such discrimination is wrong and should not be tolerated. I am proud to support a bill that would outlaw it. I applaud Representative SLAUGHTER and Representative BIGGERT for their hard work in bringing this bill to the floor today.

During consideration of H.R. 493 by the Committee on Energy and Commerce, of which I am a member, a concern was raised by Representative STUPAK. The concern related to genetic discrimination dealing with embryos or fetuses, as well as adopted children and those in the process of being adopted. Like Representative STUPAK, I do not want to allow insurance companies to use genetic information to discriminate. Period.

I worked out language with Representative STUPAK to amend H.R. 493, which addressed his concerns in a mutually acceptable way. This language says that individuals cannot be discriminated against as a result of genetic information gleaned prior to birth. It further says that women cannot be discriminated against as a result of the genetic information of a fetus, embryo, adopted child, or child they are in the process of adopting. At the same time, it does not create a new legal status or convey new legal rights to fetuses or embryos. Thus, I feel it provides the proper balance between providing protections from genetic discrimination while not addressing other non-germane issues.

The compromise language was adopted by the full Committee on Energy and Commerce without objection during its consideration of H.R. 493. I am pleased that this language is included in the bill we are considering on the floor today.

I encourage all Members to support H.R. 493 and I look forward to its soon becoming law.

WILD FREE-ROAMING HORSES AND BURROS SALE AND SLAUGHTER PROHIBITION

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 249) to restore the prohibition on the sale and slaughter of wild and free-roaming horses and burros:

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 249.

This legislation is critical to preserving a part of America's roots, and it is an important symbol of the rugged, wild, and freedom that is the American West. As old as the red rock on the canyon walls, and as reliable as the sun rising in the clear western sky, America's wild and free-roaming horses and burros on our public lands are part of our nation's fabric and history.

H.R. 249, a bill to protect wild free-roaming horses and burros, will expressly prohibit the sale, transfer, or slaughter for commercial product processing of any freeroaming horse or burro on U.S. public lands.

I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 249.

BING SUM WONG

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2007

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, I stand here today to honor and remember a loving husband and father, successful businessman, and dedicated community activist, Mr. Bing Sum Wong.

Bing passed away on April 24, 2007, in San Bernardino, California. He was 95 years old.

Bing spent his early childhood years in Kwangtung, China, and at the age of 13, moved with his father to San Bernardino.

From this humble beginning, Bing went on to become one of the most successful businessmen in San Bernardino, as well as a great friend to the community.

Bing opened his first restaurant in 1933, in Calexico. In 1956, after more than 20 years in the restaurant business, Bing and his wife Ting opened Bing's famous Cathay Inn, located on Highland Avenue. The restaurant was a huge success, and gave Bing the opportunity to focus on one of his true passions, education.

In 1963, the Bing Wong scholarship foundation was formed. Since then, more than \$600,000 has been distributed to students pursuing education. Today, the scholarships are

given annually to three separate age groups: kindergarten students, seventh-grade students, and high school students.

Bing was a longtime member of the Rotary Club of San Bernardino-North, and a founding board member of both the American Security Bank and the Gom-Benn Village Society.

He has received numerous awards for his contributions to the San Bernardino community, including an honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters from Cal State San Bernardino. The Norman F. Feldheim Library board of directors named a lecture hall after Bing in 1985, and an elementary school under construction in San Bernardino was named after him this year.

Bing is survived by his wife of 76 years, Ting Wong; his three daughters Nanci Wong, Janice Lee, and Josephine Wong; nine grandchildren, and twelve great-grandchildren.

Let us take the time to pay tribute to this wonderful man. Let us celebrate the life he lived and the example he led.

The thoughts and prayers of my wife Barbara, my family and I are with his family at this time.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DEBRA SILLIK

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Debra Sillik, President of the American Indian Chamber of Commerce of Nevada, for giving a voice to minority small businesses.

Debra Sillik began her journey as President of the American Indian Chamber of Commerce of Nevada just 7 months ago. Over this time, she has made a major impact. Debra has helped give the 9,556 American Indians and Alaska Natives a voice in Nevada. She has provided them with employment and educational opportunities. American Indian businesses have grown 56 percent in the Nevada area. In 1997 when this organization started, they only had 1,231 businesses where as of 2002, they have 1,915 American Indian and Alaska Native-owned businesses. She also began offering education workshops as well as scholarship opportunities. Debra holds monthly networking meetings, educational luncheons, job fairs, and awards banquet, and a Native American trade show. Debra has worked hard to put together a board and has increased the number of members participating. Debra's most recent achievement includes being honored as the Minority Small Business Champion of the Year. Through her dedication and service, she has helped create business opportunities for the Native American population in Nevada.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Debra Sillik for her dedication to helping American Indians thrive in Nevada. I congratulate her for her recent recognition by the Nevada District Office of the U.S. Small Business Administration and wish her the continued success.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PRIVATE IMMIGRATION RELIEF LEGISLATION OF 2007

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2007

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, today I rise to introduce a private immigration relief bill for several Chicagoans who remain in daily jeopardy because they seek a path to citizenship in the United States.

Over the past few years, I have met with several residents in my community and heard detailed accounts of abuse by the Department of Homeland Security and the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency.

I was told stories of children being ripped from the arms of their parents by immigration enforcement officers toting machine guns and aiming their weapons at family members.

I was told stories of mothers who had lived in the United States for years, bore children, paid taxes and owned homes—but still faced deportation because they hadn't met all the standards required for citizenship in our country.

There were numerous stories of immigrants who were being sponsored by their sick and ailing family members—mothers, husbands, children and babies; who were thrown off the path towards citizenship because of tragic illnesses resulting in death.

Madam Speaker, we all understand the debate on illegal immigration strikes considerable emotion and debate; however, my legislation today is in support of average people who were trying to do the right thing.

Every name on this private bill: Elvira Arellano, Juan Carlos Arreguin, Martin Guerrero Barrios, Maria I. Benitez, Francisco J. Castro, Jaime Cruz, Martha Dávalos, Herminio Dávalos, Adan Disifredo Delvalle, Angel Espinosa, Verónica Lopez, Francisca Lino, Maria A. Martin, Juan Jose Mesa, Maria Natividad Loza, Blanca E. Nolte, Domenico Papaanni, Romina Perea, Juan Jose Rangel, Sr., Dayron S. Rios Arenas, Araceli Zepeda, Doris Oneida Ulloa and Bladimir I. Caballero, Arnulfo Alfaro, Consuelo and Juan Manuel Castellanos, Eliseo Pulido, Gilberto Romero, Maria Liliana Rua-Saenz, Tomas F. Martinez-Garcia, Flor Crisostomo; Fatuma Karuma, Stanislaw Rychtarczyk, Slobodan Radanovich, Agustin Sanchez-Dominguez, are victims of circumstance.

They all want a chance to stay with their families in the United States, make an honest living and pursue the American dream. I call on my colleagues to support this legislation and the immediate consideration of immigrant visas, adjustments of status for permanent residence, and practical paths towards citizenship for the above immigrants.

INTRODUCTION OF AUTOMATIC IRA BILL

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2007

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I rise to offer bipartisan legislation to create

additional savings opportunities for workers who do not have access to qualified retirement plans through their employers. I am pleased to be joined by Rep. PHIL ENGLISH in offering "The Automatic IRA Act of 2007," along with several other cosponsors, which will increase retirement savings for millions of workers.

Over the years, Congress has improved incentives for employer-based retirement and pension plans by providing more flexibility, increasing the limits, and lessening the administrative burdens. Still, about one in four employees who have access to these successful retirement vehicles do not take advantage of them.

What is a much more difficult group to reach, though, are the estimated 75 million workers who do not have access to these employer-based plans. That is why today we are filing legislation to create automatic payroll deposit Individual Retirement Accounts, or IRA's, for workers who do not have access to employer-provided qualified pension plans. Our bill would require employers to automatically enroll employees in an "auto IRA" unless the employee opts out. These are "set it and forget it" payroll deposit accounts. The non-partisan Retirement Security Project has estimated that this proposal could raise net national savings by nearly \$8 billion annually.

We are, of course, sensitive to any increased burden on small businesses, so the bill provides for a temporary tax credit for employers with less than 100 employees in order to offset the upfront administrative cost of establishing this program. Only employers with at least 10 employees, which have been in business for at least two years, would be covered by the bill. Further, the bill does not mandate any matching contributions by employers or any fiduciary responsibility for the management of the accounts. It is our sincere hope that once employers start participating, they will decide to convert these arrangements to the broader 401(k) plans. The IRA contribution limits are much lower than the 401(k) limits, so business owners may see incentives to switch to the bigger plans.

Employers have the option of choosing a private sector manager for the auto IRA's, but allowing each employee the right to transfer, or simply allowing the employee to designate the provider at the outset. As a default, an option similar to the successful and popular Thrift Savings Program would be established.

The automatic enrollment feature is not new. It builds upon the success of 401(k) auto enrollment, promoted by the Pension Protection Act of 2006. Many of the workers who will benefit from our bill will likely be moderate to lower-income workers. The proposal, which was jointly developed by Brookings Institution and Heritage Foundation scholars, has garnered widespread support, including AARP and the Minority Business Roundtable, and has been endorsed in New York Times editorials and by the Washington Times' lead political correspondent.

Of the 75 million American workers who have no access to an employer plan, over 40 million work for employers of at least 10 employees. And, only 10% of these workers actually seek out their own IRA's or other retirement savings vehicles. The auto IRA bill that we are proposing will reach this critical group of workers and hopefully help them start on the road to retirement security. We urge our